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### MME. CURIE'S VISIT TO AMERICA

Mme. Marie Skłodowska Curie, accompanied by her two daughters, is spending five weeks in the United States. Representing France and Poland, the high intellectual achievement of women, and at the same time science which transcends the limits of nationality and of sex, she has received a welcome commensurate with her services and her distinction. In view of the widespread accounts of her work and of the honors conferred upon her, it is only necessary here to join in the universal expression of welcome and of admiration.

In her first address, which was made to the students of Vassar College, Mme. Curie expressed the value of research in pure science to the general welfare, the recognition of which will be greatly forwarded by the universal interest taken in her visit: She said:

We must not forget that when radium was discovered no one knew that it would prove useful in hospitals. The work was one of pure science. And this is a proof that scientific work must not be considered from the point of view of its direct usefulness. It must be done for itself, for the beauty of science, and then there is always the chance that a scientific discovery may become, like radium, a benefit for humanity. But science is not rich; it does not generally meet recognition before the material usefulness of it has been proved. The factories produce many grams of radium every year, but the laboratories have very small quantities. That is true of my laboratory, and that is why I am very grateful to the American women who wish me to have more radium and are giving me the opportunity to go on with my work.

### SCIENTIFIC ITEMS

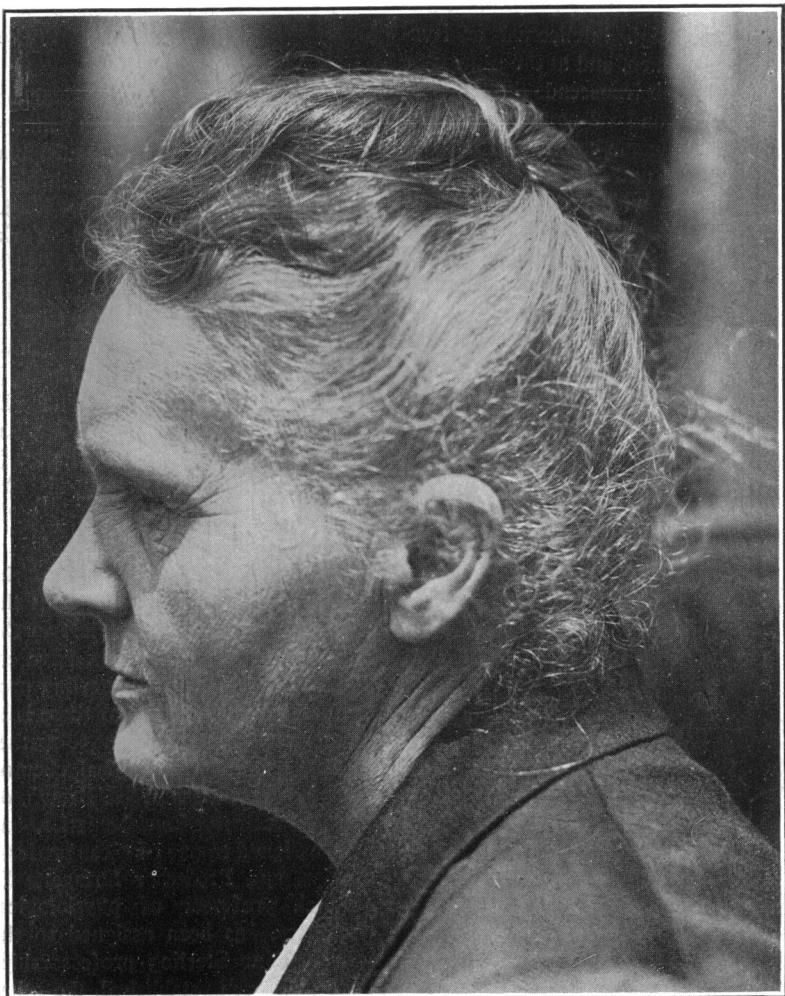
WE record with regret the death of Henry Platt Cushing, professor of geology in Western Reserve University; of George Frederick Wright, the geologist, professor emeritus of the harmony of science and religion at Oberlin College, and of Al-

bert Cable Hale, formerly secretary of the American Chemical Society.

AT the recent meeting of the American Chemical Society at Rochester, Professor Charles F. Chandler and Dr. William H. Nichols were elected honorary members of the society.

THE American Philosophical Society has elected members as follows: Herman V. Ames, Philadelphia; George David Birkhoff, Cambridge; John J. Carty, Short Hills, N. J.; Frank M. Chapman, New York; Henry Crew, Evanston, Ill.; Benjamin M. Duggar, St. Louis; John Marshall Gest, Philadelphia; Charles Homer Haskins, Cambridge; Lawrence J. Henderson, Cambridge; J. Bertram Lippincott, Philadelphia; Hideyo Noguchi, New York; Thomas B. Osborne, New Haven; Charles J. Rhodes, Philadelphia; Vesto M. Slipher, Flagstaff, Ariz.; David White, Washington.

THE trustees of the estate of the late John W. Sterling, to whom the residue of the estate was left in the interest of Yale University, have established two additional Sterling professorships at Yale; one of these is to be assigned for the present to mathematics, one to physiological chemistry. Professor Ernest W. Brown, of the department of mathematics, has been assigned to one of these professorships, and Professor Lafayette B. Mendel, professor of physiological chemistry, has been assigned to the other. Four Sterling professorships have now been established, the other two being the new professorship of education recently filled by the appointment of Frank E. Spaulding, formerly superintendent of public schools in Cleveland, Ohio, and the new professorship of chemistry recently filled by the appointment of Professor John Johnston, formerly secretary of the National Research Council. Each of these professorships has an endowment of about \$225,000.



*Photograph by Underwood and Underwood*

MME. CURIE AT THE TIME OF HER ARRIVAL IN THE UNITED STATES